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eastern. Then follows a comparison of these mountains with the Swiss Alps, in which the Caucasus is shown to excel in loftiness and grandeur of peaks and mountain masses, and in wildness and solitude. But the Swiss Alpine valleys surpass those of the Caucasus in the charm of their beauty and restfulness. There are chapters on the ethnology of the peoples inhabiting the region, and an historical sketch of the explorations of the mountains.

These chapters are introductory to the narrative of the explorations by Merzbachen, who, as an Alpine climber, undertook the ascent of the loftiest and most forbidding peaks. The narrative begins with his departure from Munich in 1891, and the details of the journeys are presented with such thoroughness as to constitute a veritable guide-book of the country traversed. Passing through Batum and Kutais to Tschwelieri, the mountains are entered by way of the Lahpari Pass. Following an unsuccessful attempt on Ushba, are the ascents of the Laila and the Tetnuld, the crossing of the Adur-see Pass into the Baksan Valley, the ascent of Elbrus and a series of high peaks east to Kasbek, which, with a journey to Tiflis completes the experience of the first season. The second expedition, in the summer of 1892, was directed to the eastern portion of the range, and a number of lofty peaks ascended, including Tebulos-mta, Komito tawi, and Donos-mta.

The book finishes with a chapter on the map of the mountains and a discussion of the names applied to the peaks and passes; also a petrographical description of rock specimens and fossils collected by the author and studied by Dr. Ludwig von Ammon. Finally, there is a statement of all things possibly needed for such an expedition: clothing, camp outfit and provisions, apparatus, medicines, and presents suitable for those whose favors could not be repaid with money.

J. P. I.

The Geological History of the Rivers of East Yorkshire [England]; being the Sedgwick Prize Essay for the Year 1900. By F. R. Cowper Reed, Trinity College, Cambridge.

In this study the modern physiographic mode of working out the history of topographic and drainage systems is employed with apparent success, following confessedly American precedents. The general conclusions are thought to apply to East England, and perhaps more widely. They are set forth as follows:

By the preceding examination of the geological and physical evidence we have traced the general outlines of the evolution of the present drainage system of East Yorkshire through several successive stages, and we find that its history is intimately bound up with that of the whole of Eastern England since Palæozoic times. There are local details still waiting to be filled in, and branches of the subject still to be investigated, but it is believed that they will produce no evidence which will contradict the main results here worked out. The division of the physical history of the region since Cretaceous times into six stages or cycles is based on geological evidence which is practically incontrovertible; the assumptions as to the original slope of the surface and the deformation of the peneplain are supported by orographical measurements and geotectonic considerations of great weight, as well as by being in harmony with evidence from other parts of England; and, finally, the theory of consequent and subsequent streams has been established on a firm foundation by Davis and many other workers in the same field. The hypothesis of the secondary origin of the Moorland anticlinal as a watershed more or less parallel to the original consequent streams has been found to afford a natural and satisfactory explanation of the behavior and characters of the water courses which it concerns; and the modifications effected by the glacial period have been interpreted in most cases from direct field-evidence.

T. C. C.

The Conveyance of Water in Irrigation Canals, Flumes, and Pipes.
By Samuel Fortier. [Bulletin No. 22, Water Supply and
Irrigation Papers, Division of Hydrography, United States
Geological Survey.]

The paper calls attention to present practices in the conveyance of water in the irrigated districts in different parts of the arid West and points out ways in which works of this character may be built with greater permanence and at less cost than those now in existence. As the relation of the cost of delivering water to the value of the crop to be raised is the vital question in irrigation, this paper should be of especial value to those in anyway affected by the results of irrigation.

The report gives a comprehensive review of the various kinds of irrigation canals and ditches, discussing the faults and merits of each and dwelling on such problems of their operation as the effects of too great or too little grade, the growth of aquatic plants and their removal, the accumulation of ice in winter, and the flow of water as affected by the nature and condition of the conduits.